

AGENDA

MARINE AND PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURSUANT TO Board of County Commission Resolution No. 057-1991 the Marine and Port Advisory Committee of Monroe County will conduct a meeting on January 6, 2010 beginning at 6:30 PM in the 1st Floor Conference & Media Press Room of the County Bldg., located at the Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida.

MARINE AND PORT ADVISORY MEMBERS

Paul Koisch, Chair
Doug Gregory, Vice Chair
Kent Edwards
Pam Martin
Robert Mongelli
Mimi Stafford
Sandy Walters
Pat Wells
Pete Worthington

STAFF

Richard Jones, Sr. Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the 11/18/2009 MPAC meeting *
2. Discussion of disposal protocol for vessels from private citizens
3. Update on the FWC Pilot Program
4. Discussion on the Monroe County Vessel Pumpout Program

* indicates documentation to accompany the agenda item

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

MARINE AND PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Minutes

PURSUANT TO Board of County Commission Resolution No. 057-1991 the Marine and Port Advisory Committee of Monroe County conducted a workshop and a regular meeting on **November 18, 2009** beginning at 6:30 PM at the Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida.

MARINE AND PORT ADVISORY MEMBERS:

Paul Koisch, Chair	Present
Doug Gregory, Vice Chair	Present
Kent Edwards	Present
Pam Martin	Present
Bobby Mongelli	Present
Mimi Stafford	Present
Sandy Walters	Present
Pat Wells	Absent
Pete Worthington	Present

STAFF

Richard Jones, Sr. Administrator	Present
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COMMISSIONERS

MOTIONS MADE

Motion 1

Approval of the September 1, 2009 MPAC meeting minutes.

Motion/Second	Passed unanimously
Sandy Walters/Pete Worthington	

WORKSHOP & MEETING MINUTES

Paul Koisch, Committee Chair, opened the workshop at 6:30 pm.

Item 1. A Workshop to Discuss the County's Unpermitted Mooring Initiative

Paul Koisch asked for an update on the project from Rich Jones. Rich explained that the \$65,000 in mitigation funds required by DEP that were to be used for the unpermitted mooring initiative was no longer available. He said that DEP several months ago had given an informal approval to use the money to hire a consultant to perform a survey of moorings in the Boca Chica Harbor area. However, last week DEP determined that the money had to be used for hiring a marina regulatory compliance position for one year, as

originally agreed upon between DEP and the developer who must pay the mitigation costs. Rich indicated that Monroe County notified DEP months ago that the County is not interested in creating such a position. Rich explained that due to the funds no longer being available for the unpermitted mooring project, that the Marine Resources Office may put the project on hold for the time being. Members of the Committee voiced their disappointment in how the mitigation funding had been handled by DEP, but agreed with the need to focus on higher priority projects at this time. The workshop was closed at 6:45 pm.

Paul Koisch opened the regular meeting of the MPAC at 6:45 pm.

Item 2. Approval of the September 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Paul Koisch mentioned that Rob Bleser had resigned from the committee.

The minutes of the September 1, 2009 MPAC were unanimously approved.

Lt. David Dipre with FWC mentioned that he had been working in Lee County recently and observed that they have fifty staff in their marine resources office, and that Monroe County has only one staff to perform all the duties of the Marine Resources Office. Sandy Walters noted that there are multiple agencies in the Keys that have staff that perform duties related to the marine environment. Lt. Dipre then discussed the statewide derelict vessel program and mentioned that DEP and ACOE now want permits for all derelict vessel removals. He said that is totally un-necessary for most of our derelict vessels and would add to the time it takes to remove the vessels. He indicated that he will be working with those agencies to try and eliminate the need for permits for typical derelict vessel removals.

Pam Martin mentioned the Vessel Be Gone Days project that Kim McGee had conducted in the past and how it was successful in removing old vessels that citizens have by allowing them to take the vessels to the transfer station and have the fees waived. Rich Jones explained that people can take their old vessels to the transfer station and have the fees waived anytime. Ms. Martin indicated that the County needs to let people know that we currently have such a program. Rich Jones indicated that the project needs to be handled carefully so that it is not abused. Pam indicated that the program should be publicized so that it is taken advantage of, and so that people don't put their boats out in the water and leave them, and then the County has to have them removed by a contractor. Mr. Jones explained that typically vessels on the water are larger, whereas vessels that people take to the transfer station themselves are typically trailerable. Sandy Walters suggested putting out a press release letting people know about the current program. Pete Worthington made a motion to put out a public service announcement. Pam Martin seconded the motion. Sandy Walters suggested putting a photo of a d/v in the PSA. The Committee discussed developing guidelines for the program. Doug Gregory asked to table the item. Pete Worthington withdrew his motion. Pam Martin then volunteered to put together some guidelines and criteria for the program. Paul Koisch indicated that Pam should provide the guidelines to staff at least two weeks before the next meeting.

Item 3. Update and Discussion on the FWC Pilot Program

Paul Koisch asked Rich Jones for an update on the Pilot Program. Rich indicated that a Letter of Interest had been submitted to FWC for Monroe County to be involved with the

program, partnering with the cities of Key West and Marathon. Marathon has already provided a letter of intent to partner with the County. Rich explained that Key West has indicated a desire to partner, but has not yet committed. He said that most likely an agreement would be developed for the partnership.

Gail Kenson, representing the Navy, described areas around Fleming Key and Boca Chica that are being zoned to keep boats from anchoring or entering into those areas for security purposes. Rich Jones indicated that he will be coordinating with the Navy to make sure both parties know what each is doing in regard to regulating vessels in association with the Pilot Project. Rich stated that he had also communicated with the Village of Islamorada regarding the Pilot Project. Rich then described the project in more detail, including the need to establish ordinances for the cities and the county to address derelict, abandoned, and improperly stored vessels. He indicated that the cities will determine what their specific issues are, and what type of regulatory regimes they want to develop to address those issues. Rich indicated that Marine Resources and FWC will work with the cities in the development of their ordinances and provide technical assistance. Rich also mentioned that the cities would conduct the required surveys inside their respective mooring fields. He indicated that he had offered to Key West that the County would take care of the surveys outside their mooring field, up to one mile. Doug Gregory indicated that the ordinances should be creative. Rich Jones agreed, stating that FWC had indicated that the state is looking for innovative ideas. Rich mentioned that we could be thinking of ideas like managed anchoring areas, time limits, etc. Rich mentioned that floating structures are one of the biggest problems to deal with, as they have no means of propulsion and are not designed for open water.

Paul Koisch mentioned that if there are criteria for a vessel to be allowed to stay in a mooring field it could mean many boats would not be allowed in. Pete Worthington mentioned that appropriate criteria encourages vessel owners to maintain and upgrade their vessels if necessary, such as installing the required MSD. Rich Jones indicated that for boats in bad condition, the idea is to get them away from the mooring field. He explained that vessels dragging anchor and drifting into a mooring field can damage other vessels, and the infrastructure. He explained that is one of the objectives of the Pilot Project; to protect maritime infrastructure.

Rich Jones explained that his biggest problem right now is determining who will conduct the surveys and how it will be done. He said that for Marathon it is not much of a problem, but for Key West there could be as many as 150-200 boats to be surveyed in a single day. Rich also mentioned problems with the survey forms and the need to collect appropriate data that is usable. He described the potential for hiring a contractor to collect locational and photographic data in addition to the minimum data required by FWC. The biggest issue with the data, Rich explained, is making the determination of whether a vessel is transient, a cruiser, or a liveaboard. He said if photos are taken, the data could be sent to FWC to let them make determinations of what kind of vessel is shown in the photo. Rich indicated that the new definition of liveaboard makes it virtually impossible to make that determination based solely on looking at the vessel. Rich indicated that FWC already has PBS&J under contract and they perform boating vessel studies that are high tech, including data logging and downloading into a GIS environment. Sandy Walters mentioned that maybe the consultant hired to re-write the comp plan could be used to perform the surveys. Gail Kenson mentioned that maybe the consultant used for the Marina Siting Plan could be used, as the data could be pertinent to the Marina Siting Plan. There was a lot of discussion as to whether surveys should be the

bare minimum required by FWC, or if it would benefit the County to perform a more robust survey that could produce better results. There appeared to be a general sentiment to just do the minimum required and then focus on the development of the ordinances. Rich was asked to find out if the survey data was going to be used by FWC to choose which five local governments would be chosen for the project.

Rich asked that the Chair of the Committee might make himself available for the December 16, 2009 BOCC meeting to hear a presentation by FWC staff. Major Paul Oullette will be explaining the project to the Commission, and Marine Resources staff will provide additional information as requested.

Committee Discussion

The next meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2010. It was requested to agenda further discussion of the FWC Pilot Program, the Pumpout Vessel Program, and the guidelines for allowing citizens to take vessels to the transfer stations.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.